



International Colloquia on
Thermal Innovations



Five Grand Challenges in Thermal Science and Engineering for Deep Decarbonization

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Stanford University

April 29, 2020

Acknowledgements:

Asegun Henry (MIT), Ravi Prasher (LBL/UC Berkeley)

Sponsored by:



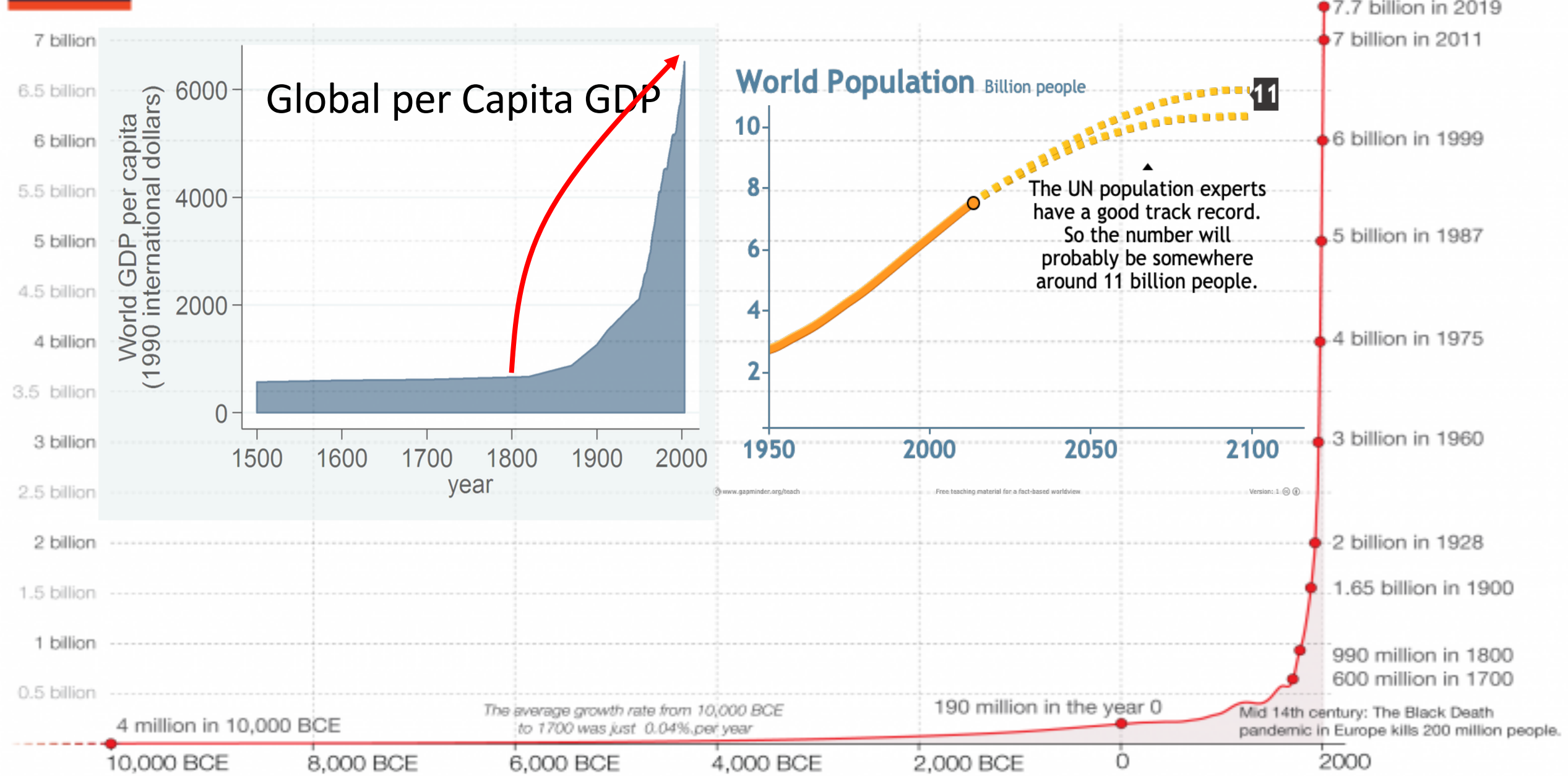
A world map with a color overlay representing temperature. The colors range from blue (colder) to red (warmer). A vertical temperature scale on the left side of the map is labeled with degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and has markings at -4, -2, 0, 2, and 4. The map shows a clear temperature gradient from the poles to the equator.

Five Grand Technical Challenges

1. **Thermal Energy Storage**
2. **Industrial Processes – Steel, Concrete, Aluminum, Hydrogen**
3. **Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Refrigerants**
4. **Long-Distance Heat Transmission**
5. **Variable Conductance Building Envelopes**

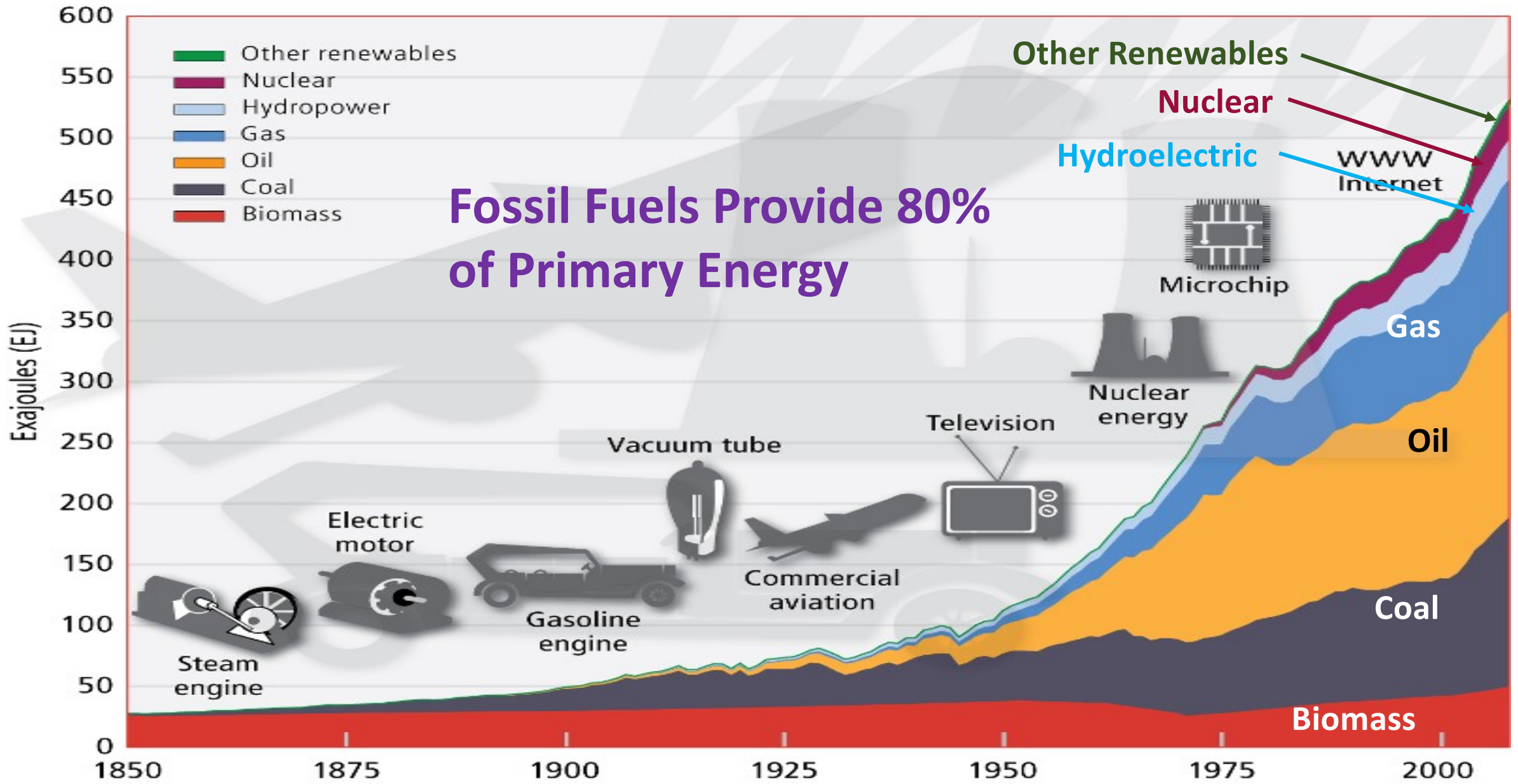
Innovations in energy policy, finance and business models are critical for impact, but not the subject of this talk

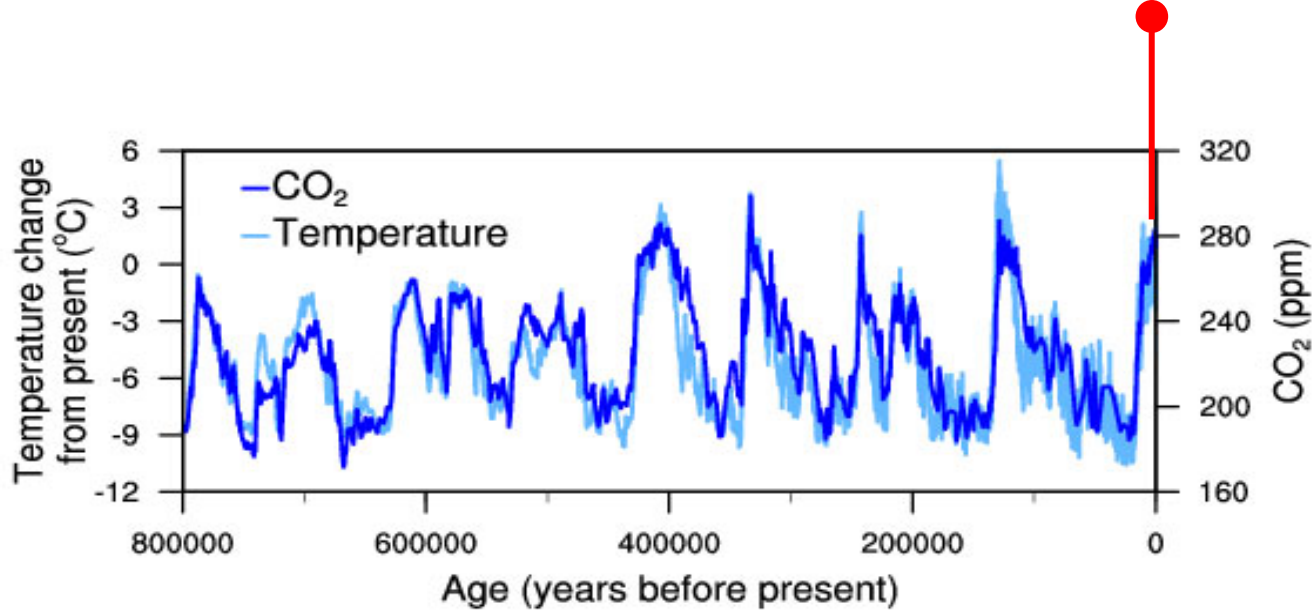
The size of the world population over the last 12,000 years



Based on estimates by the *History Database of the Global Environment (HYDE)* and the United Nations. On OurWorldinData.org you can download the annual data. This is a visualization from OurWorldinData.org, where you find data and research on how the world is changing. Licensed under [CC-BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) by the author Max Roser.

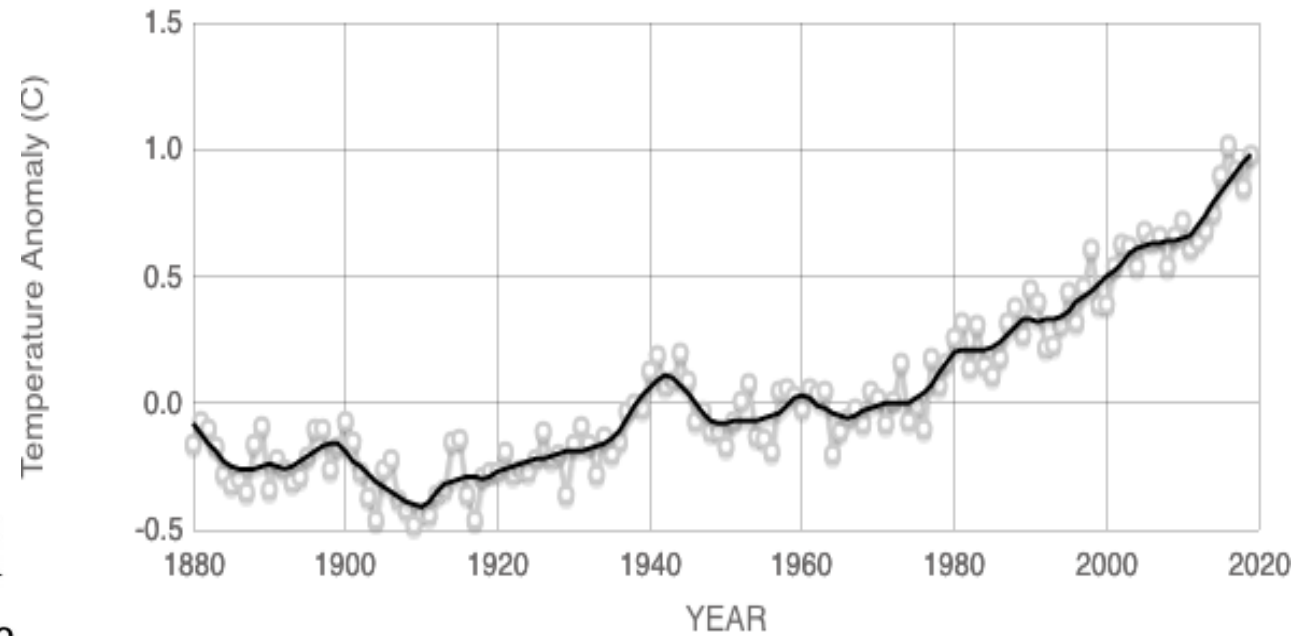
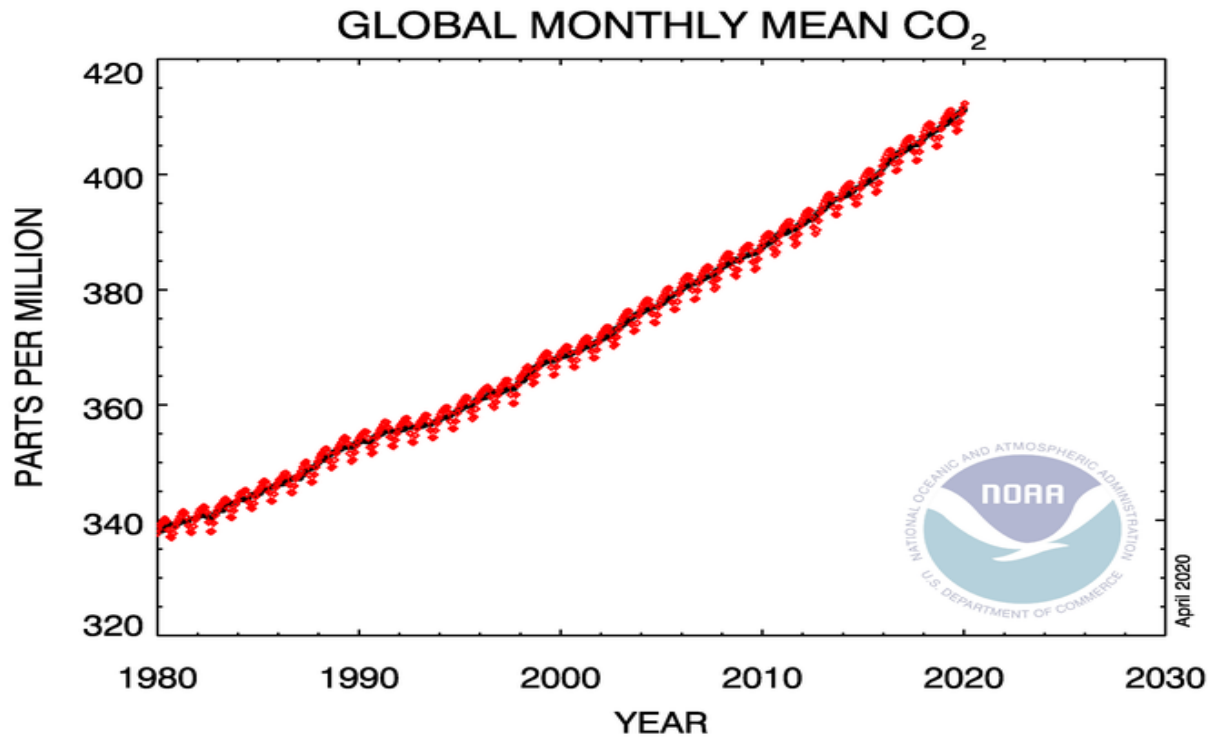
Energy is essential for economic growth and quality of human life





Lüthi, D., M. Le Floch, B. Bereiter, T. Blunier, J.-M. Barnola, U. Siegenthaler, D. Raynaud, J. Jouzel, H. Fischer, K. Kawamura, and T.F. Stocker. 2008. High-resolution carbon dioxide concentration record 650,000-800,000 years before present. *Nature*, Vol. 453, pp. 379-382, 15 May 2008

2.0 °C →



Source: climate.nasa.gov

Quiz

1 °C

2 °C

1000 GtCO₂ - 70% probability for < 2 °C

40 GtCO₂/year – increasing at 1%/yr

20-30 years

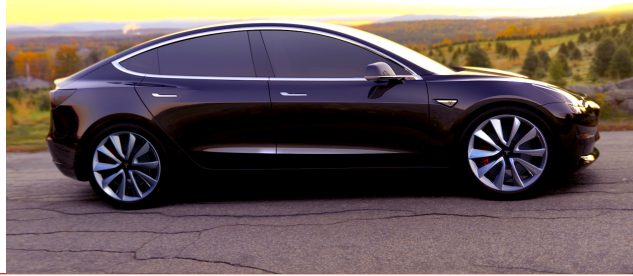
Defining Dual Challenge of 21st Century

- Providing access to affordable and secure energy for economic growth
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

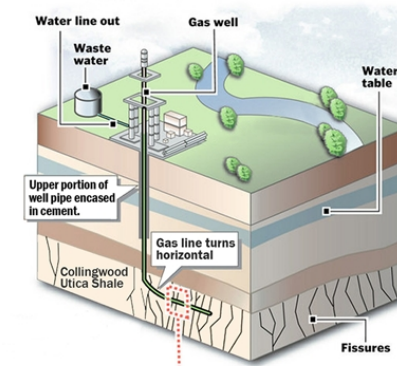
Modern Renewables Produce Most Inexpensive Electricity, But Intermittent



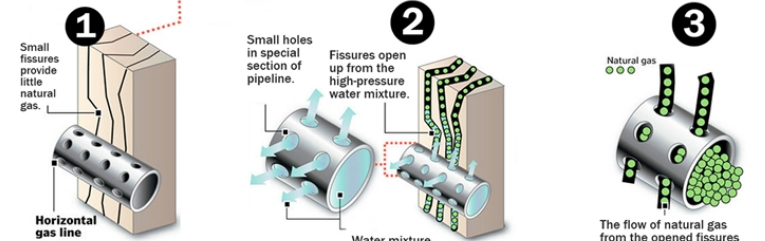
Lithium-Ion Batteries Will Likely Make Electric Vehicles Range & Cost Competitive with Gasoline Cars ≤ 2025



Unconventional Gas is Inexpensive and Abundant – Replacing Coal



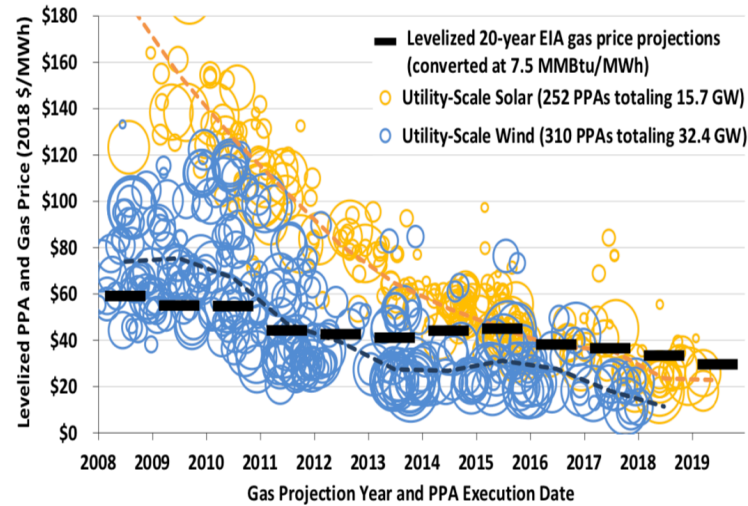
Hydraulic Fracturing
A new way of drilling for natural gas



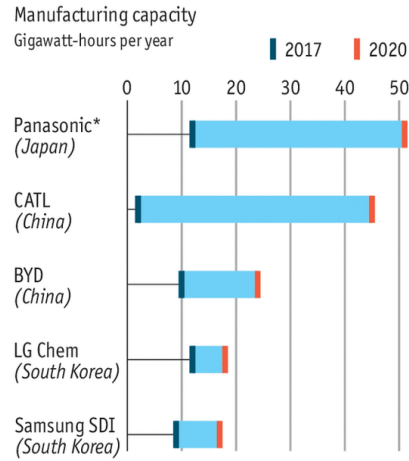
1. Drilling for maximum effect
The drilling turns horizontal at about 9,000 feet, hitting multiple fissures and increasing the volume of available natural gas.

2. Putting the Pressure On
A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped into the pipe-line, which has small holes through which the mixture is forced.

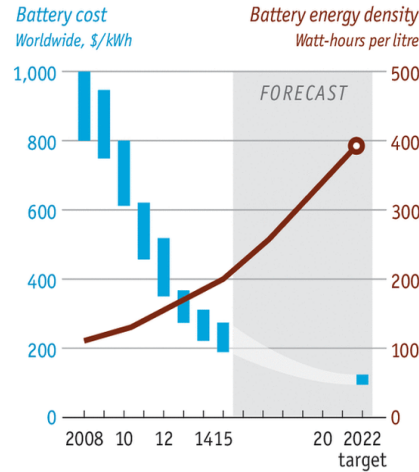
3. Increase Gas Flow
The small fissures are widened by the pressure. The water mixture is pumped back out of the well and natural gas follows back up the pipeline to the wellhead.



Electric dreams

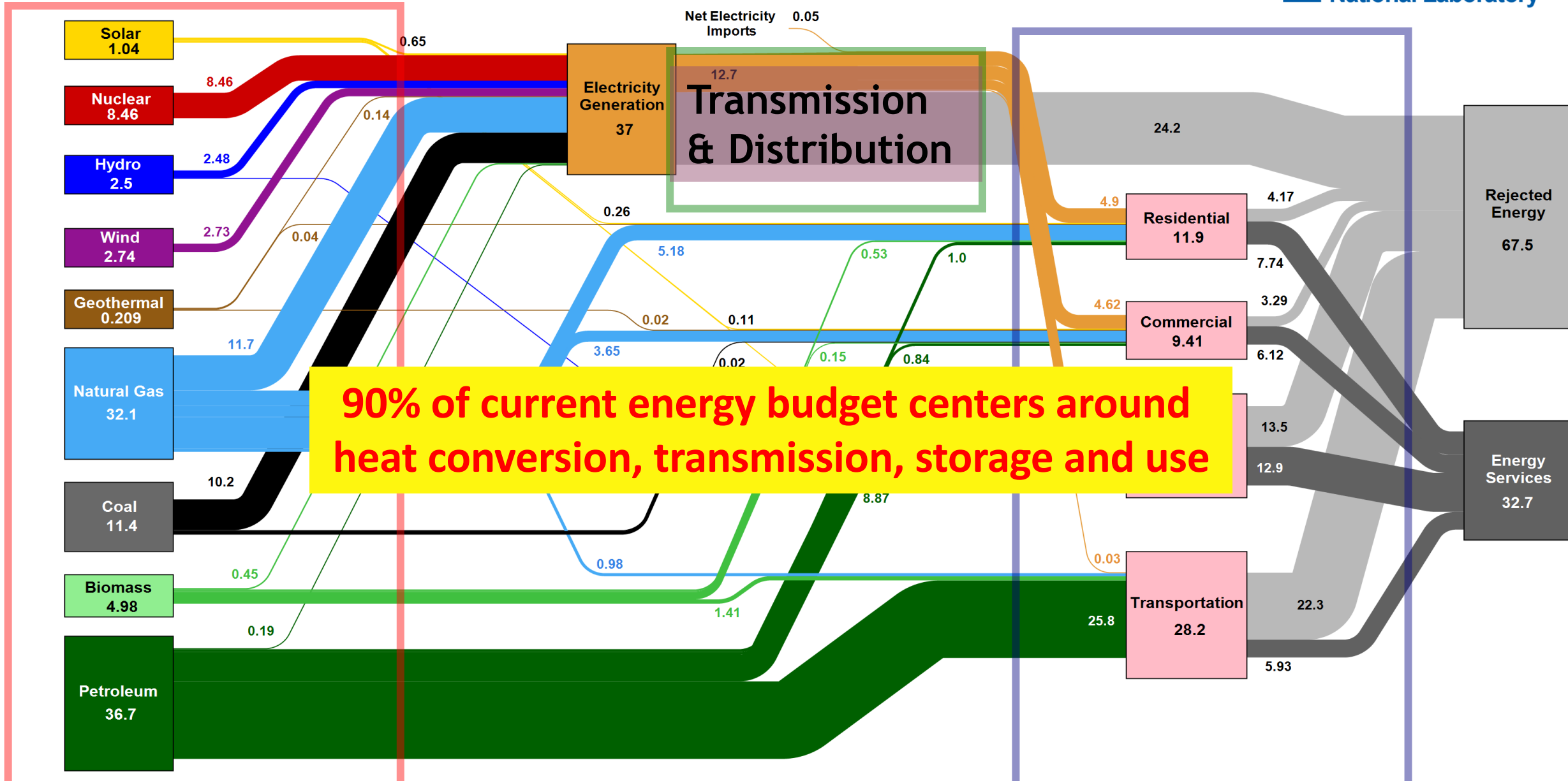


Sources: Cairn ERA; US Department of Energy



*Includes Tesla gigafactory

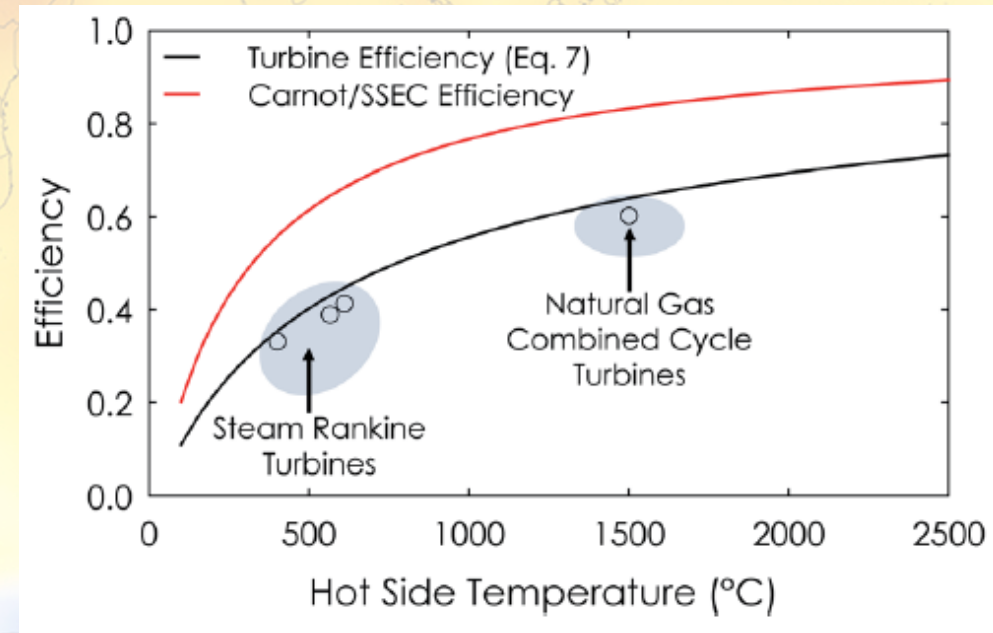
Estimated U.S. Energy Consumption in 2019: 100.2 Quads



Source: LLNL March, 2020. Data is based on DOE/EIA MER (2019). If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Distributed electricity represents only retail electricity sales and does not include self-generation. EIA reports consumption of renewable resources (i.e., hydro, wind, geothermal and solar) for electricity in BTU-equivalent values by assuming a conversion efficiency of 33% for heat rate. The efficiency of electricity production is calculated as the total retail electricity delivered divided by the primary energy input into electricity production. The efficiency is estimated as 65% for the residential sector, 65% for the commercial sector, 21% for the transportation sector and 49% for the industrial sector, which was updated in 2017 to reflect DOE's analysis of manufacturing. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. LLNL-MI-410527

Five Grand Challenges that have Highest Opportunity for Impact

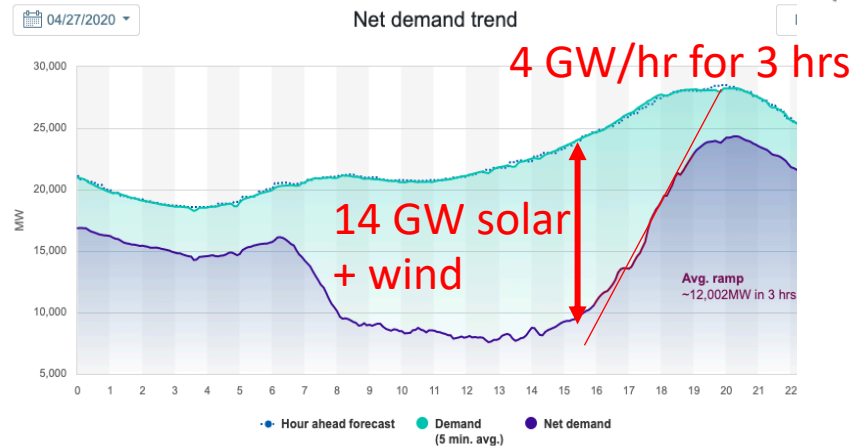
1. Thermal Energy Storage
2. Industrial Processes – Steel, Concrete, Aluminum, Hydrogen
3. Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Refrigerants
4. Long-Distance Heat Transmission
5. Variable Conductance Building Envelopes



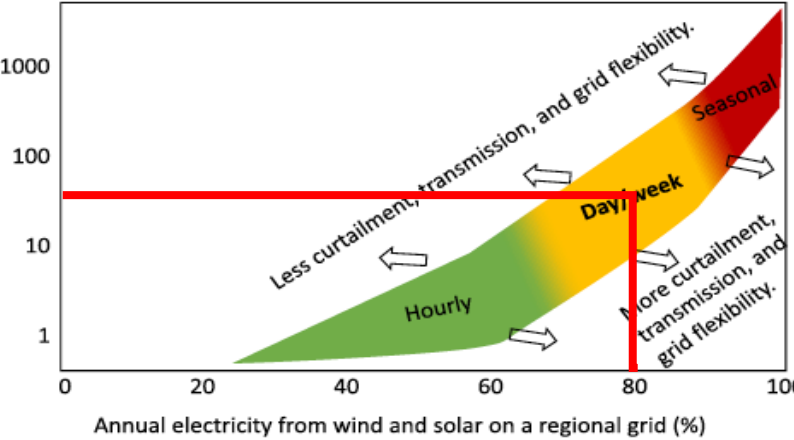
A. Henry, RS Prasher, "The prospect of high-temperature solid state energy conversion to reduce the cost of concentrated solar power," *Energy & Env Sci* **7**, 1819 (2014)

Energy Storage Needs

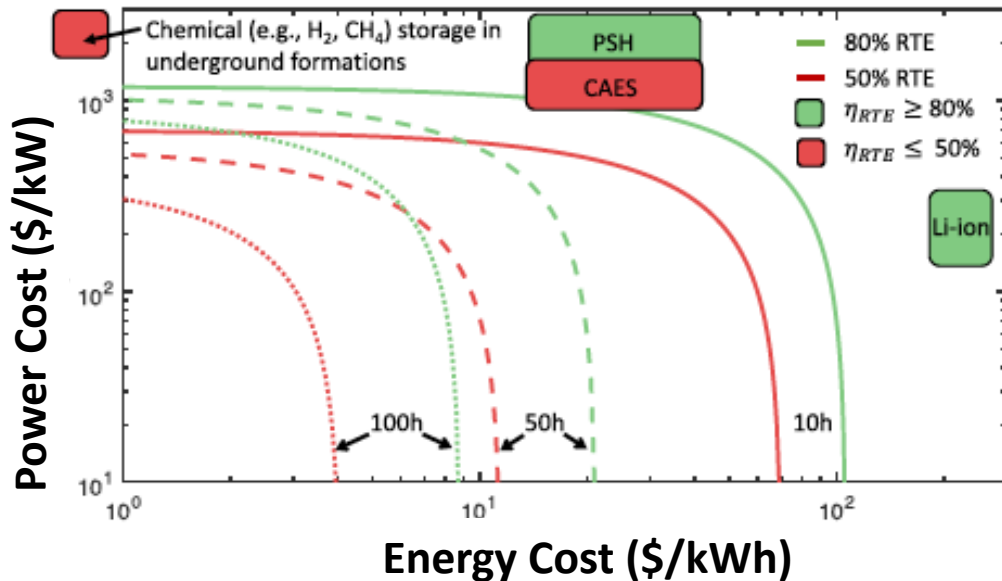
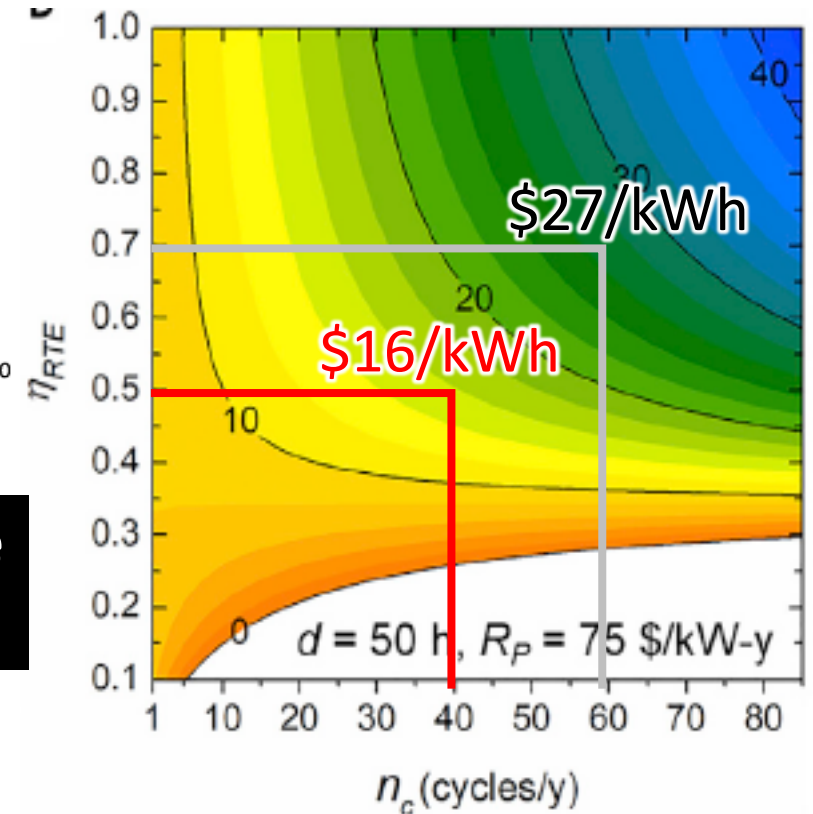
California Daily Electricity Demand



Maximum required storage duration (hours at rated power)



Capital Cost of 50-hr storage



For 100-hr storage

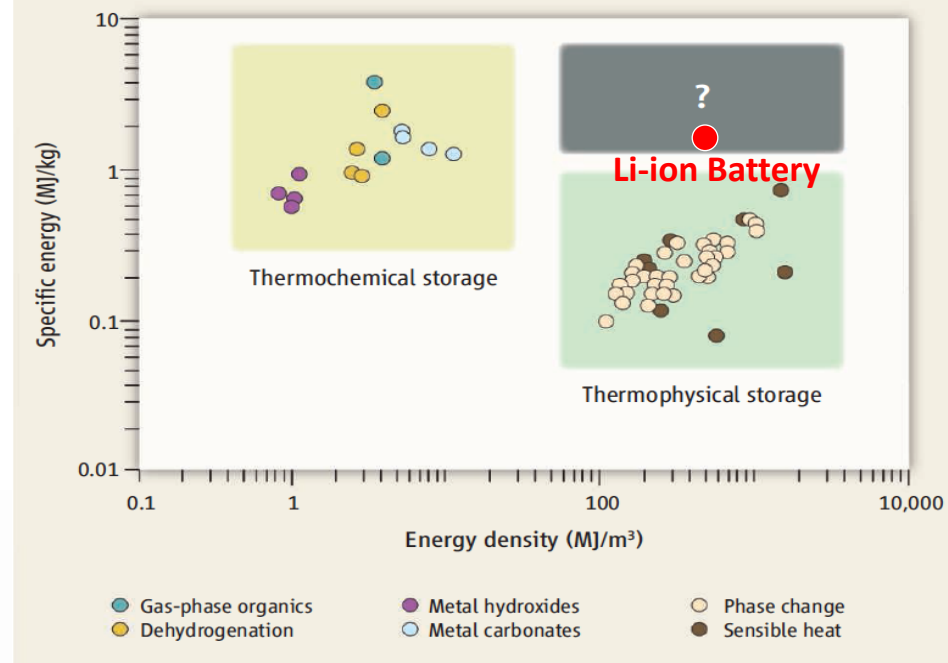
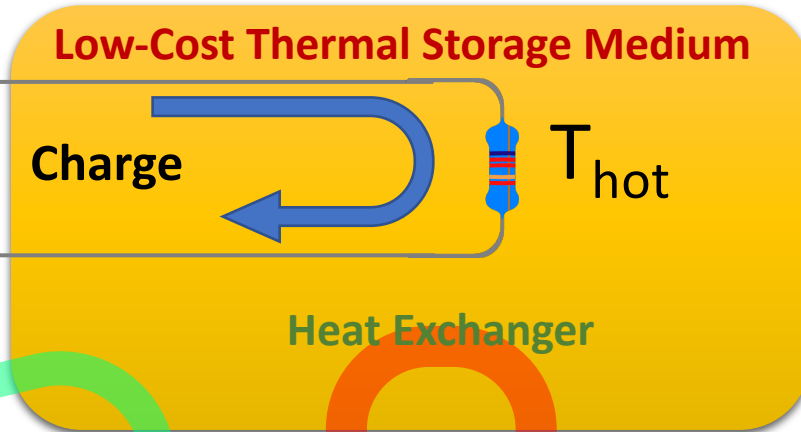
- \$3-10/kWh

P. Albertus, J.S. Manser, S. Litzelman, "Long-duration electricity storage applications, economics, technology," *Joule* 4, 21-32 (2020)

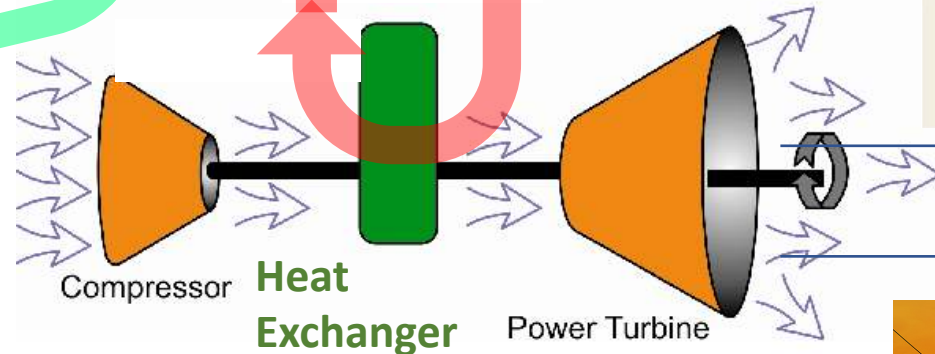
Thermal Energy Storage



Stanford Campus Energy System

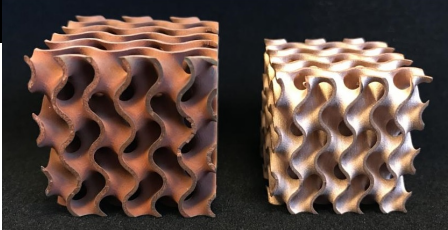


Direct Heat Utilization



(Combined Cycle) Gas Turbine

Closed Loop CO₂ Turbine

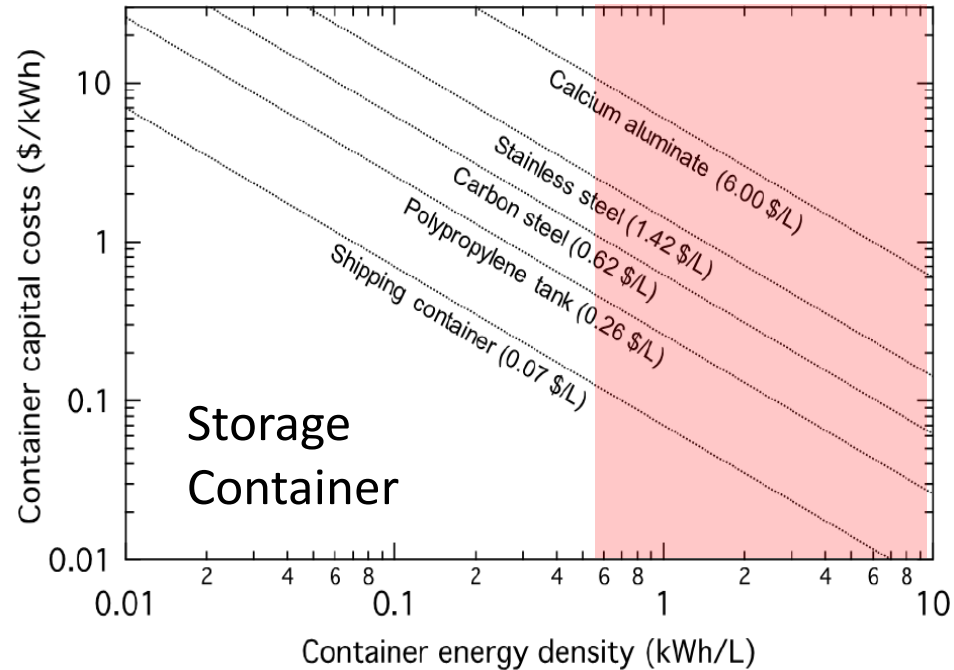
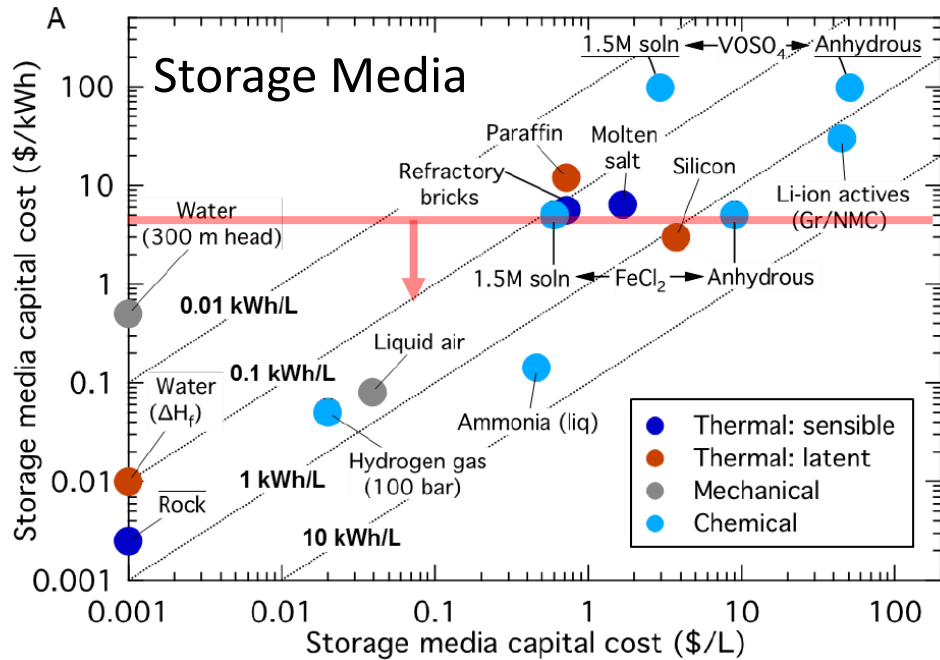


3D Printed Heat Exchangers

Gur, Sawyer, Prasher, "Searching for a better thermal battery," *Science* 435, 1454 (2012)



ARPA-E DAYS Program



<https://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=arpa-e-programs/days>

Key Technical Challenges

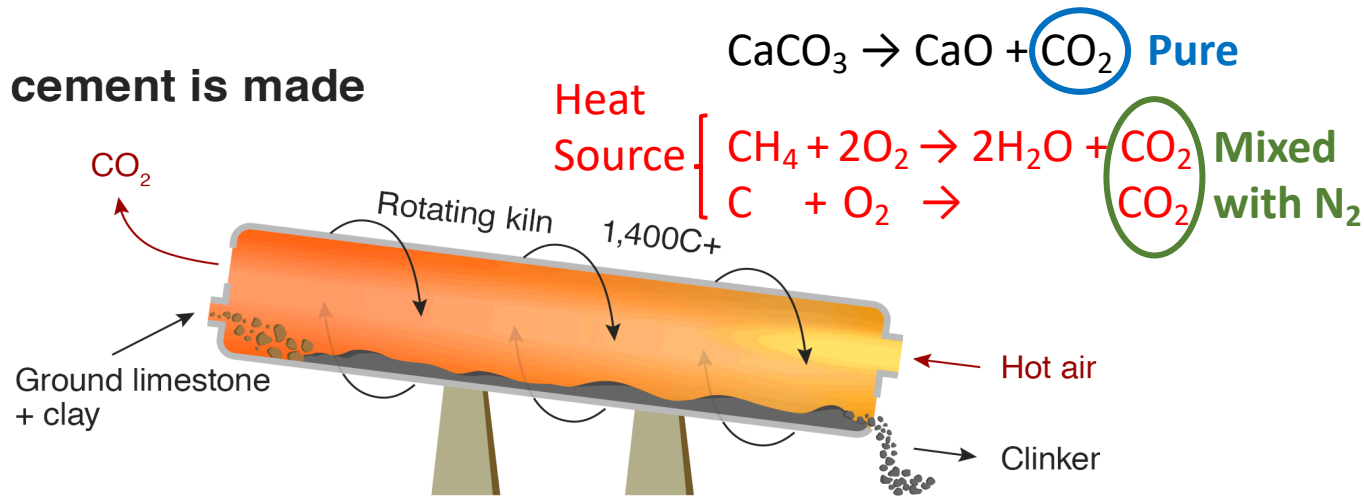
- High Energy Density, Low-Cost Storage Media
- High Heat Transfer Rate

PROJECT LISTING

- Antora Energy - Solid State Thermal Battery
- Brayton Energy - Improved Laughlin-Brayton Cycle Energy Storage
- Echogen Power Systems - Low-cost, Long-duration Electrical Energy Storage Using a CO₂-based Pumped Thermal Energy Storage System
- Form Energy - Aqueous Sulfur Systems for Long-Duration Grid Storage
- Michigan State University (MSU) - Scalable Thermochemical Option for Renewable Energy Storage (STORES)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) - Economic Long-Duration Electricity Storage by Using Low-Cost Thermal Energy Storage and High-Efficiency Power Cycle
- Primus Power - Minimal Overhead Storage Technology for Duration Addition to Electricity Storage
- Quidnet Energy - Geomechanical Pumped Storage
- United Technologies Research Center (UTRC) - High-Performance Flow Battery with Inexpensive Inorganic Reactants (P.400.0618)
- University of Tennessee (UT) - Reversible Fuel Cells for Long Duration Storage

2. Industrial Processes – Cement, Steel, Aluminum, Hydrogen

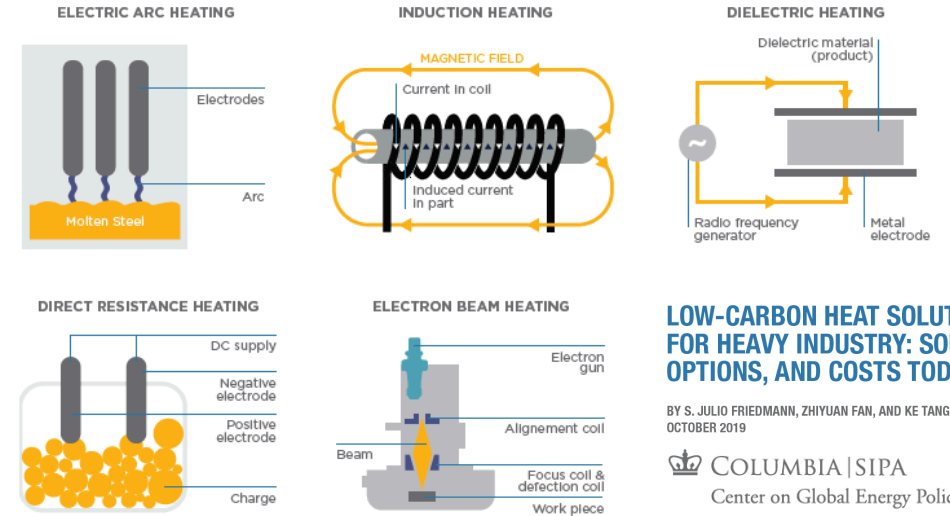
How cement is made



Source: Carbon Brief, Chatham House



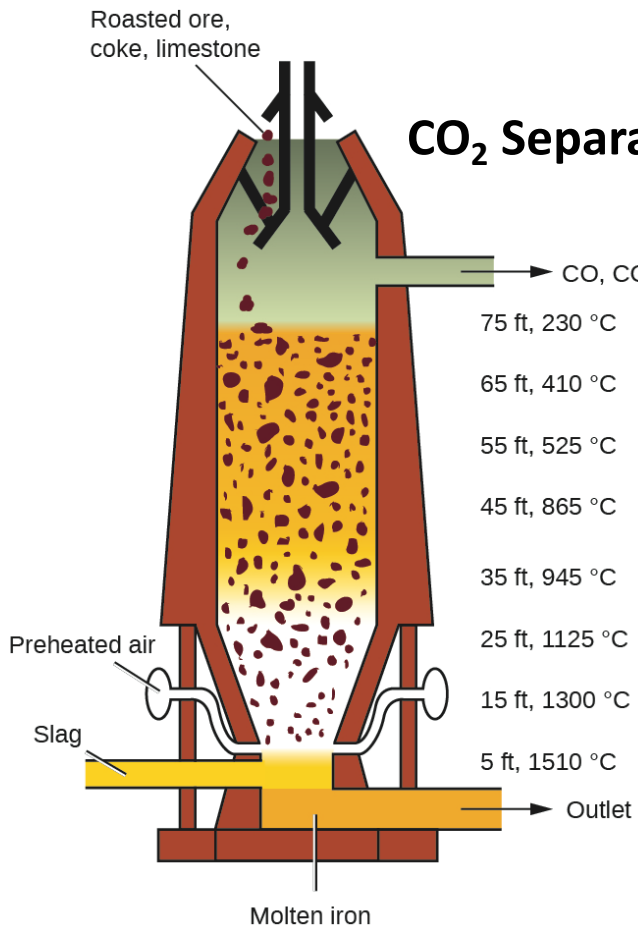
Heating with GHG-Free Electricity



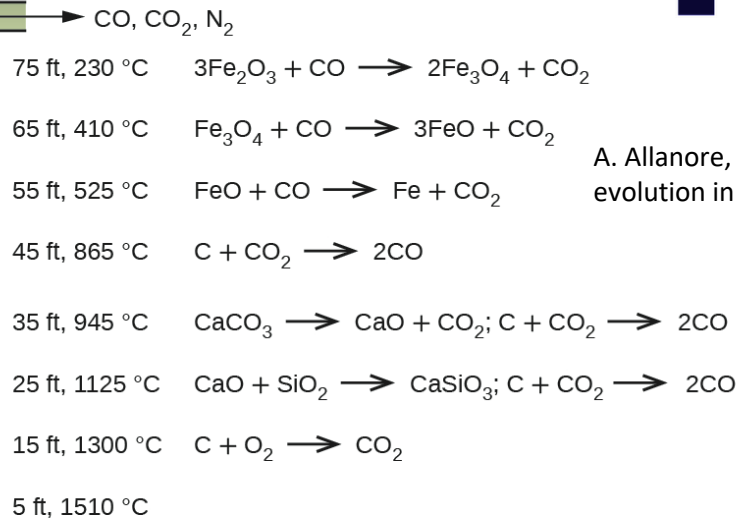
GHG-Free Hydrogen for Heating

2. Industrial Processes

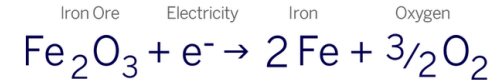
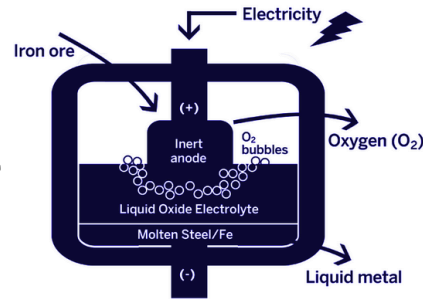
How steel is made



CO₂ Separation & Capture



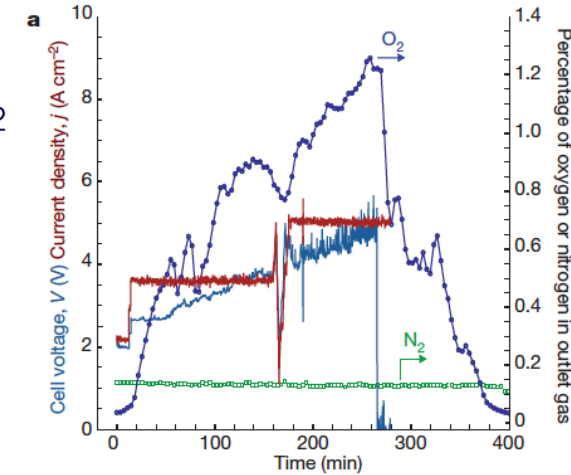
Electrochemical Iron Production



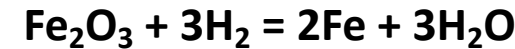
Reducing Agent	Electrons
Feedstock	Concentrates or pure oxides
Electrolyte	Molten oxides (CaO, MgO, etc.)
Containment	Refractory or frozen ledge
Temperature	Up to 2,000 °C
Product	Pure metals or alloys

Cr₉₀Fe₁₀ anode; T = 1565 °C

A. Allanore, L. Yin, D. Sadoway, "A new anode material for oxygen evolution in molten oxide electrolysis," *Nature* **497**, 353 (2013)



Hydrogen Utilization for Heat and Reductant



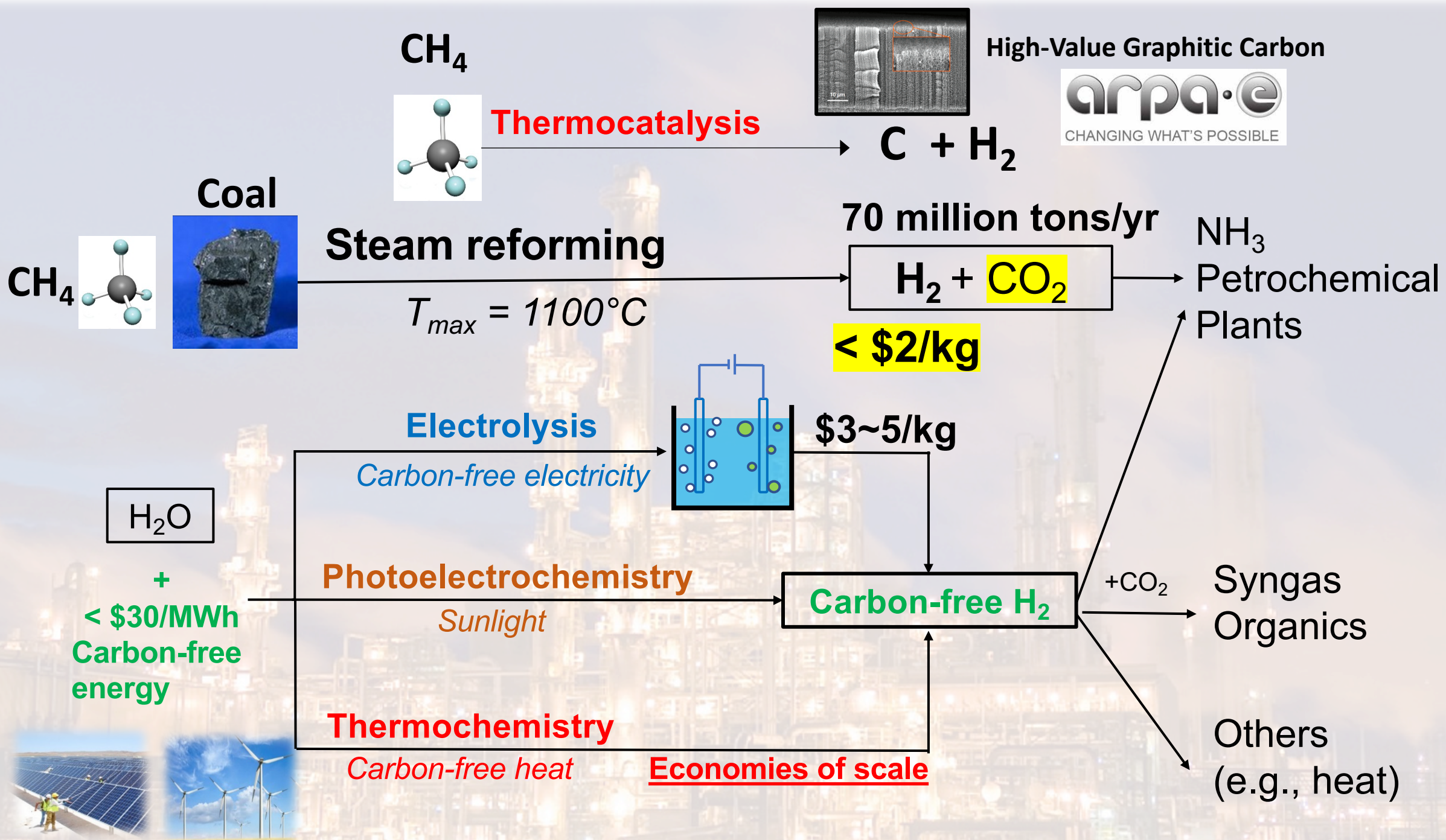
Challenges

- GHG-free H₂
- Hydrogen Embrittlement

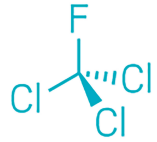
Gigaton-Scale GHG-Free Hydrogen at < \$2/kg

20-200 tons per day H₂ plants





3. Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Refrigerants



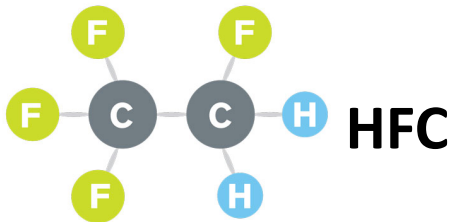
Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)

1987



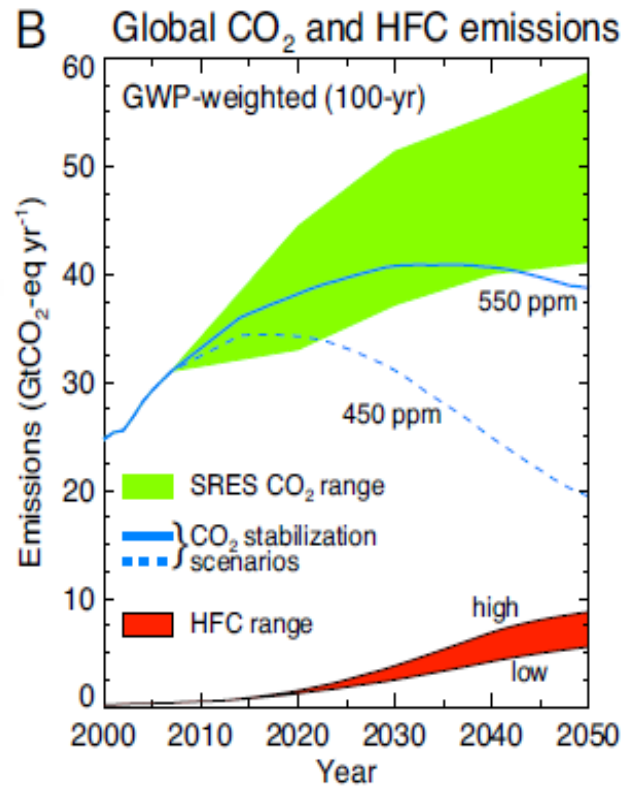
GWP > 2000

C = Carbon
F = Fluorine
H = Hydrogen

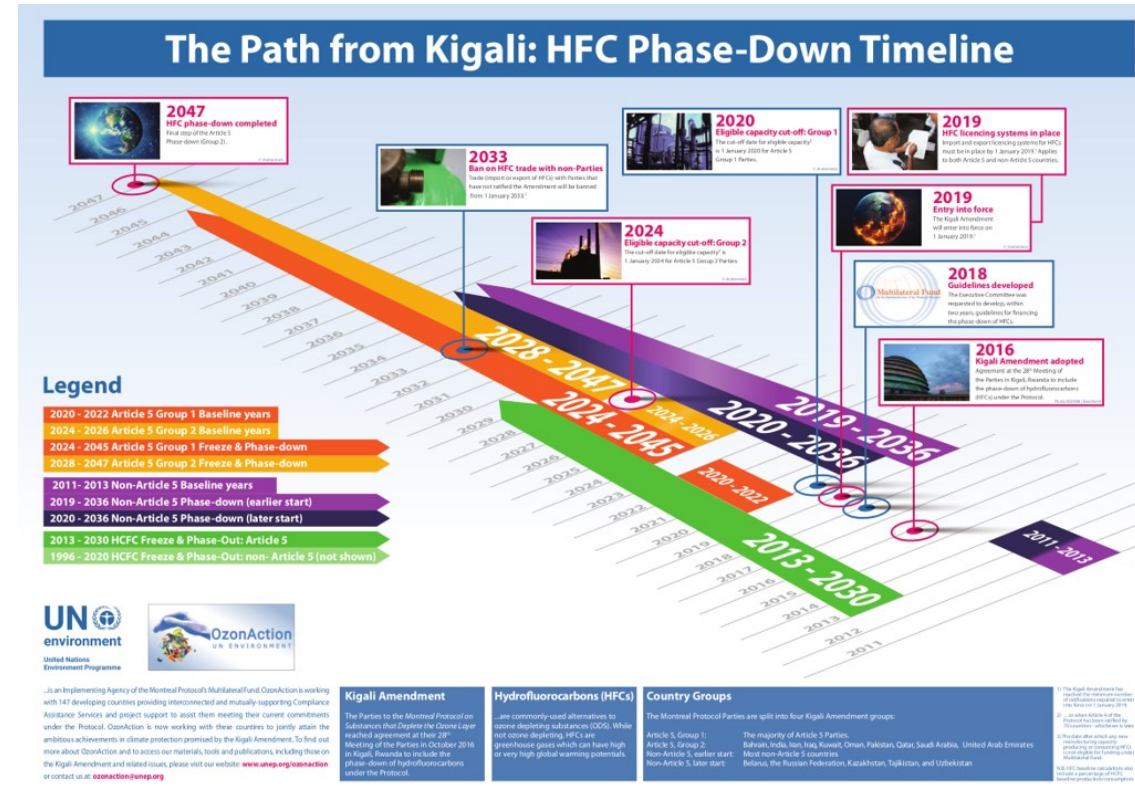


HFC-134a

REFRIGERANT LEAKAGE



Velders et al., PNAS (2009)



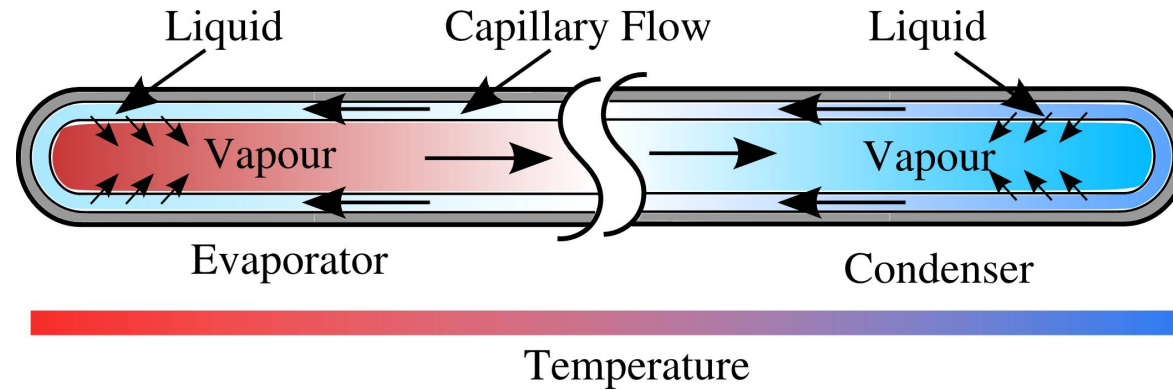


Can we find a drop-in replacement for HFCs with $GWP < 1$?

- Non flammable
- Non toxic
- Affordable

4. Long-Distance Heat Transmission with Low Exergy Loss

No equivalent for heat

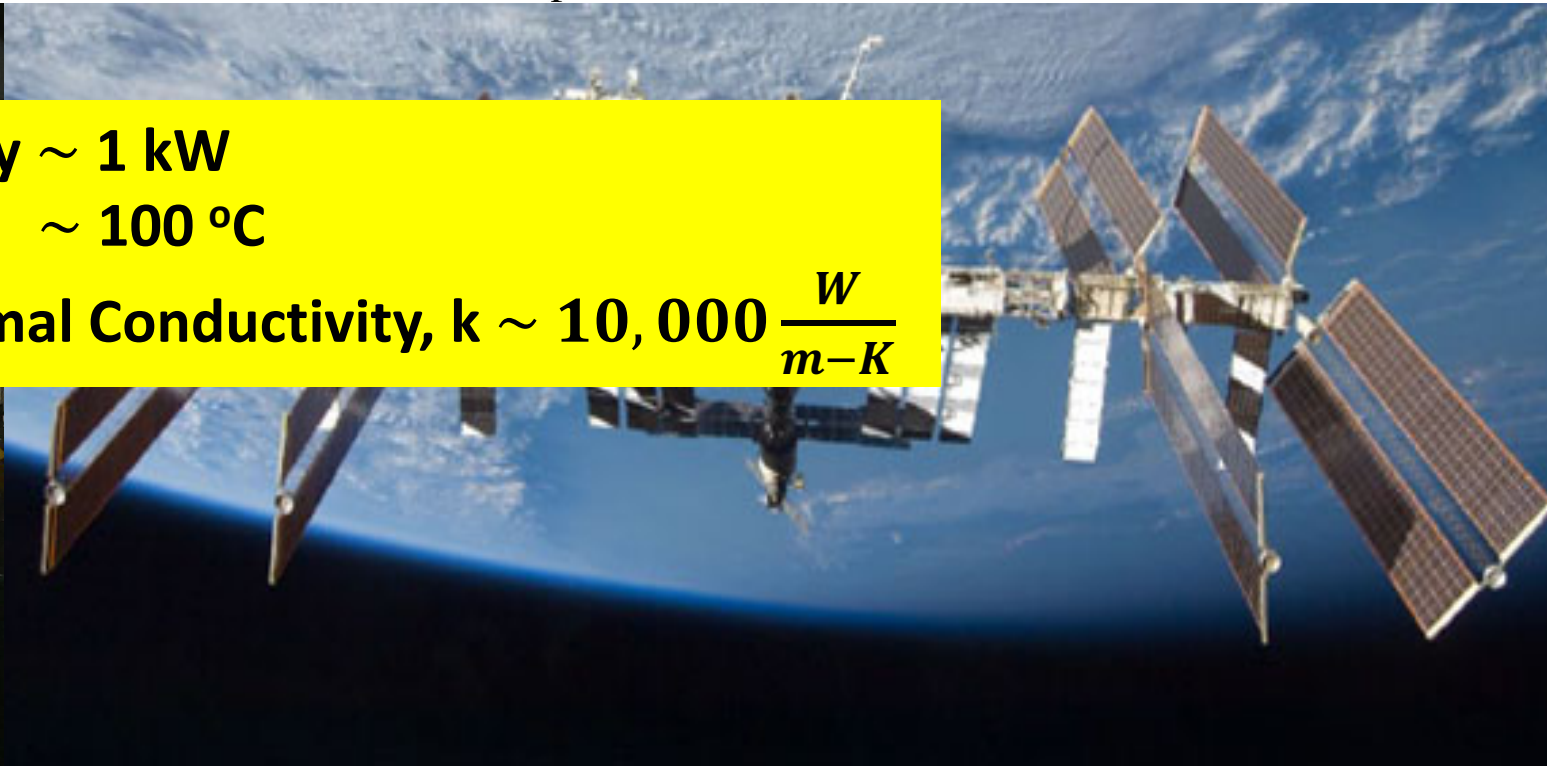
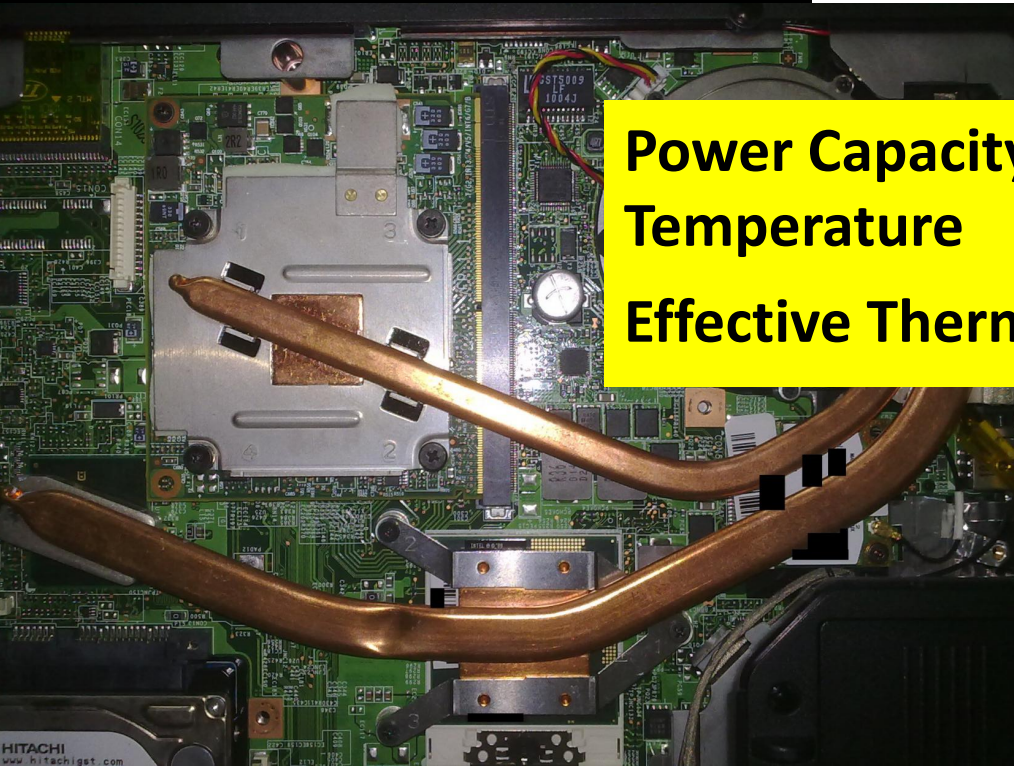


Heat Pipe

Power Capacity ~ 1 kW

Temperature ~ 100 °C

Effective Thermal Conductivity, $k \sim 10,000 \frac{W}{m-K}$



Power Capacity ~ 10s MW

Temperature ~ 100-800 °C

Effective Thermal Conductivity, $k \sim 10,000 \frac{W}{m-K}$

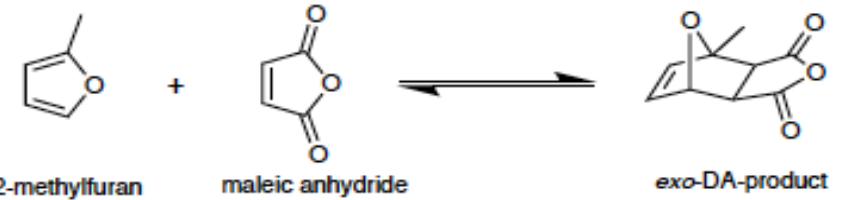
Dissociative Thermochemical Reaction



$$T = \Delta H / \Delta S$$

Moving Enthalpy

Diels-Alder Chemistry

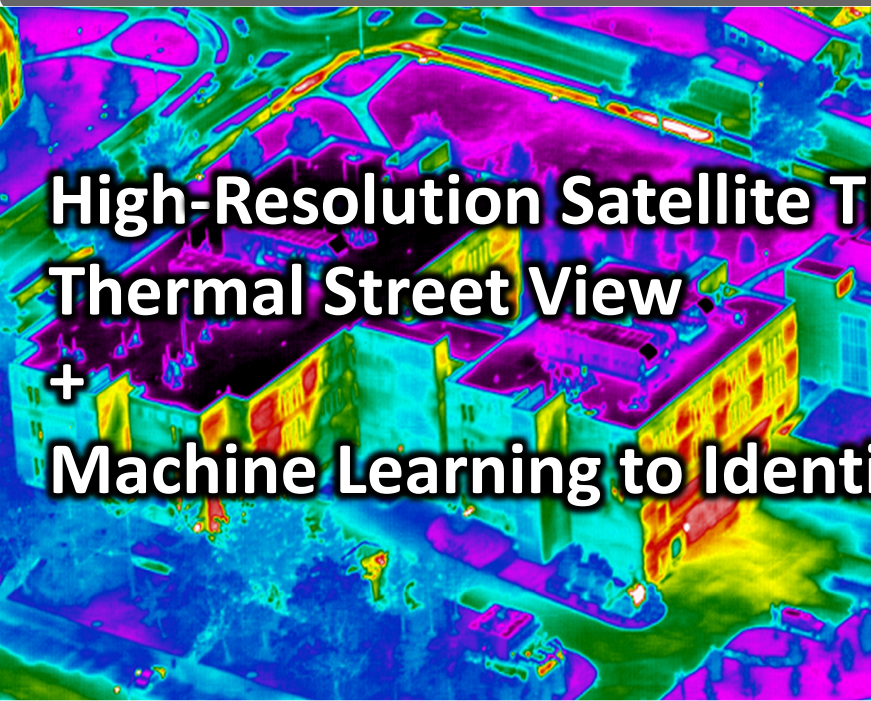
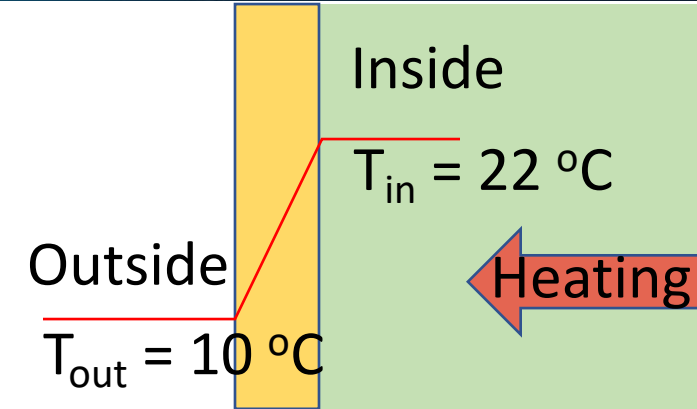
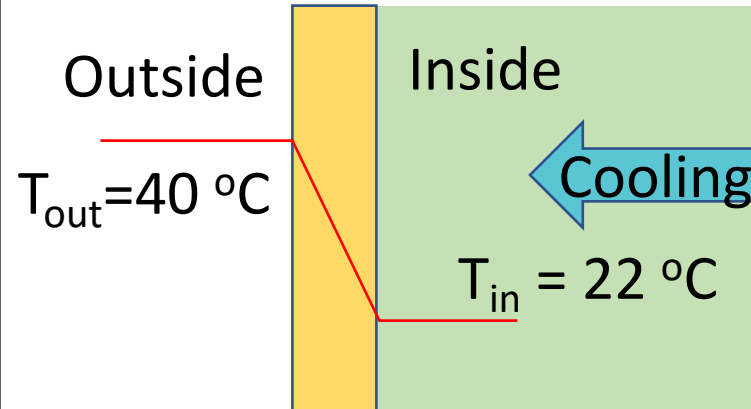
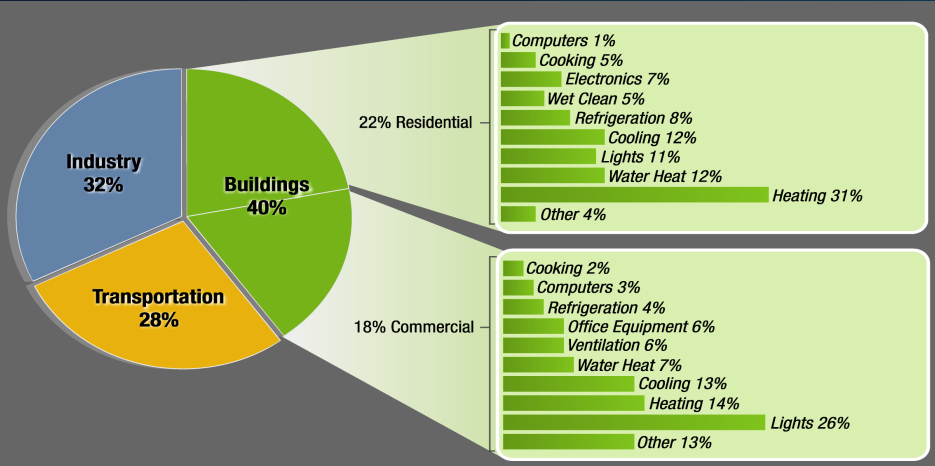


BG Sparks, BE Poling, *AIChE J* **29**, 534 (1983)
P Yu, A Jain, RS Prasher, *NMTE* **23**, 235 (2019)

Metal Oxide Redox Reaction



5. Variable Thermal Conductance Building Envelopes

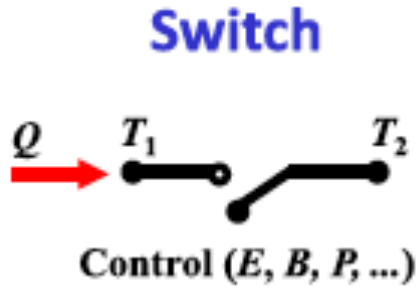


+ Machine Learning to Identify Hot Spots

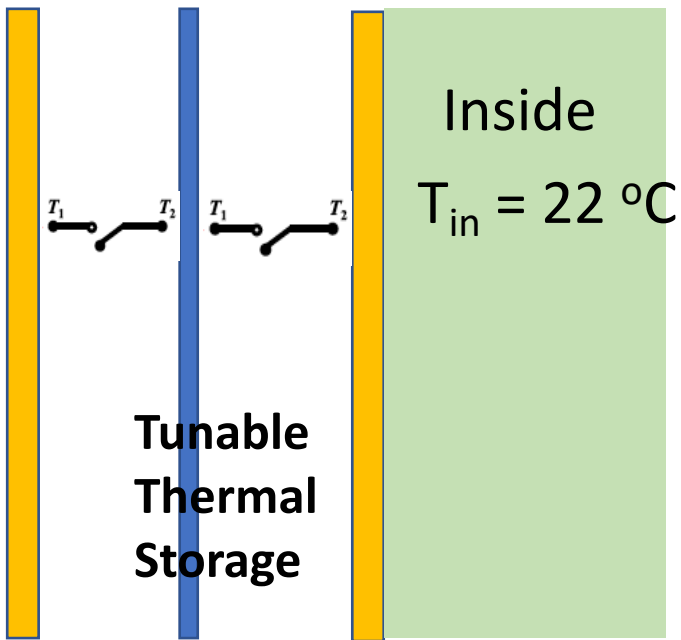


- Can we control thermal conductance (can save up to 10-40% GHG)?
- Can we couple it with thermal storage?

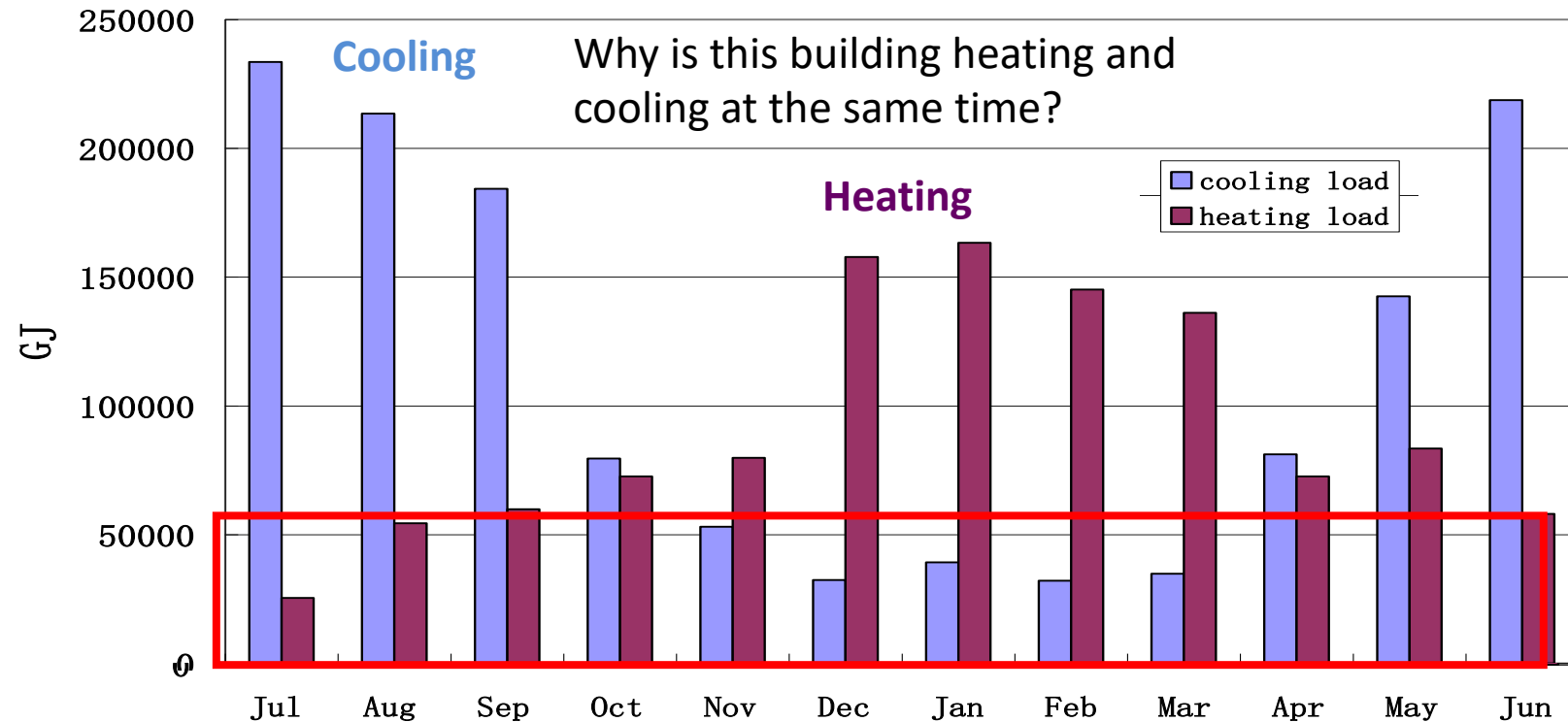
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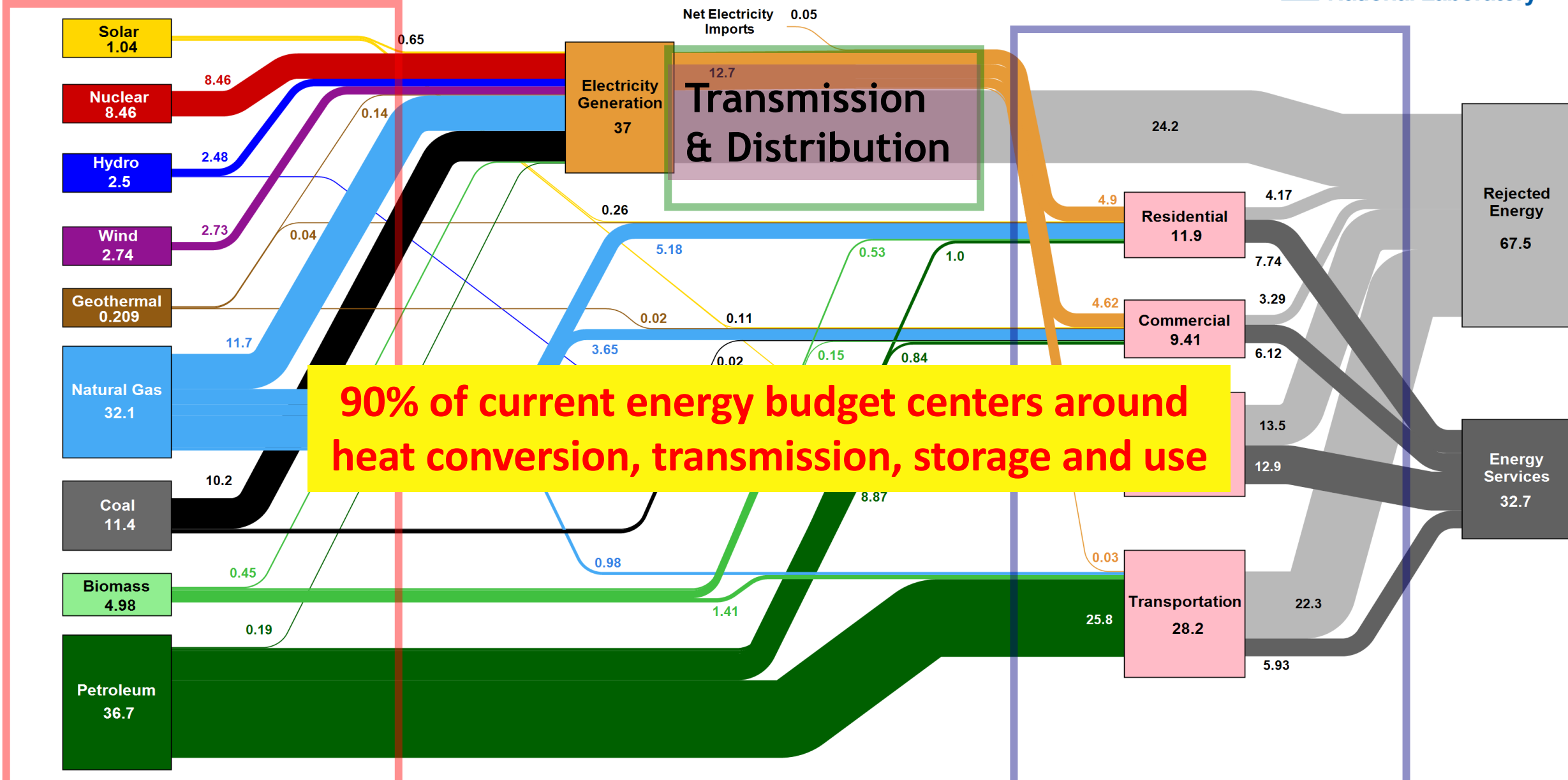
Wehmeyer, G., Yabuki, T., Monachon, C., Wu, J. & Dames, C. Thermal diodes, regulators, and switches: Physical mechanisms and potential applications. *Applied Physics Reviews* 4, 041304 (2017)



Systems-View of Building Heating & Cooling



Estimated U.S. Energy Consumption in 2019: 100.2 Quads



Source: LLNL March, 2020. Data is based on DOE/EIA MER (2019). If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Distributed electricity represents only retail electricity sales and does not include self-generation. EIA reports consumption of renewable resources (i.e., hydro, wind, geothermal and solar) for electricity in BTU-equivalent values by assuming a conversion efficiency of 33% for heat rate. The efficiency of electricity production is calculated as the total retail electricity delivered divided by the primary energy input into electricity production. Efficiency is estimated as 65% for the residential sector, 65% for the commercial sector, 21% for the transportation sector and 49% for the industrial sector, which was updated in 2017 to reflect DOE's analysis of manufacturing. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. LLNL-MI-410527

A world map with a color overlay representing temperature. The colors range from blue (colder) to red (warmer). A vertical color scale on the left side of the map is labeled with degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and has markings at -4, -2, 0, 2, and 4. The map shows a clear latitudinal temperature gradient, with the warmest temperatures (red) at the equator and the coldest temperatures (blue) at the poles. The text of the slide is overlaid on the map.

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Defining the New Normal – Lessons from History

1. Pre-COVID-19 had sustainability challenges on many fronts. COVID-19 has forced us to take a step back.
2. Global economy is in shambles, people are getting sick and some are dying. Many around the world don't have the luxury to think about the future, but we do. Along with this luxury comes the responsibility to make best use this time. This is a generational responsibility.
3. We (humanity, planet) are all in this together. We need to think and act as the whole, not just pieces at a time.
4. We need to define what the world ought to be post-COVID-19 – **the new normal** - to address the defining dual challenge of the 21st century.
 - Global institutions; policy frameworks; governance; businesses; academia; R&D agenda